

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-194 (Canceled).

Claim 195 (Previously Presented): A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect an uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price.

Claim 196 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 195, wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of currency.

Claim 197 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 195, wherein the providing of an on-line display of the gift ideas comprises:

generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and

supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

Claim 198 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 195, wherein attempting to satisfy the purchase request comprises:

sending the purchase request to a supplier.

Claim 199 (Previously Presented): A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price, and

wherein attempting to satisfy the purchase request comprises:
sending an offer to purchase the selected gift to a plurality of vendors;
receiving an acceptance of the offer from one of the vendors; and
requesting that the accepting vendor send the selected gift to the gift recipient.

Claim 200 (Previously Presented): A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price, and

wherein attempting to satisfy the purchase request comprises:

adding the purchase request for the selected gift to a gift list of gifts to be purchased;
aggregating purchase requests for identical gifts into a single purchase order;
sending an offer to purchase the gifts in the purchase order to a plurality of vendors;
receiving an acceptance of the offer from one of the vendors; and
requesting that the accepting vendor send the gifts in the purchase order to the appropriate gift recipients.

Claim 201 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 195, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving credit card information supplied by the gift givers that make commitments.

Claim 202 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 195, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price.

Claim 203 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 195, wherein the receiving of gift ideas from a gift recipient comprises receiving at least one gift idea that specifies a substitute gift.

Claim 204 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 195, further comprising:

providing the commitments for monetary contributions to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the selected gift's purchase price.

Claim 205 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 195, wherein one or more of the gift ideas specified by the gift recipient is associated with a recipient-determined purchase price for the gift idea.

Claim 206 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 195, wherein one or more of the gift ideas specified by the gift recipient is associated with a recipient-determined vendor for the gift idea.

Claim 207 (Previously Presented): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

- receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

- storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

- providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

- receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

- combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

- automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and

- attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

- wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price.

Claim 208 (Previously Presented): A centralized gift registry computer system programmed to perform a method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

- receiving at said centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

- storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

- providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

- receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

- combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

- automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and

- attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

- wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price.

Claim 209 (Previously Presented): A gift registry computer system configured to enable a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the computer system comprising:

- a communications circuit for connecting to a communications network;

- a processor; and

- a memory containing instructions executable by said processor to perform the steps of:

receiving gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient via said communications network;

storing the gift ideas in said memory or in another memory accessible to said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied via said communications network, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving, via said communications network, commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price.

Claim 210 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 209, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

Claim 211 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 209, wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of currency.

Claim 212 (Previously Presented): A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, at least one of the received gift ideas specifying a substitute gift;
storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, the gift registry computer system;
providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to the gift registry computer system, an on-line display of the gift ideas;
receiving at the gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for parts of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;
combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and
automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the gift,
wherein the commitment of each giver for part of the total gift amount is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of currency.

Claim 213 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 212, wherein the providing of an on-line display of gift ideas comprises:

generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and
supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

Claim 214 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 212, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

Claim 215 (Canceled).

Claim 216 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 212, further comprising:

providing the commitments from the gift givers to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

Claim 217 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 212, wherein the gift recipient specifies total gift amounts for the gift ideas.

Claim 218 (Previously Presented): A storage medium having processor-executable instructions for performing a method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, at least one of the received gift ideas specifying a substitute gift;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, the gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to the gift registry computer system, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at the gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for parts of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the gift,

wherein the commitment of each giver for part of the total gift amount is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of currency.

Claim 219 (Previously Presented): A computer system programmed to perform a method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, at least one of the received gift ideas specifying a substitute gift;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, the gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to the gift registry computer system, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at the gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for parts of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the gift,

wherein the commitment of each giver for part of the total gift amount is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of currency.

Claim 220 (Previously Presented): A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, wherein each gift idea has a specified total gift amount;

storing the gift ideas and total gift amounts in a storage medium which is part of, or accessible to, the gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and total gift amounts and in response to requests supplied to the gift registry computer system, an on-line display of the gift ideas and the total gift amounts;

receiving at the gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for parts of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift,

wherein each giver is able to commit for part of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift even if the only gift amount specified by the gift idea for the selected gift is the total gift amount.

Claim 221 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 220, wherein the providing of an on-line display of gift ideas comprises:

generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and

supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

Claim 222 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 220, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

Claim 223 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 220, wherein the receiving of gift ideas from a gift recipient comprises receiving at least one gift idea that specifies a substitute gift.

Claim 224 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 220, further comprising:

providing the commitments from the gift givers to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

Claim 225 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 220, wherein the gift recipient specifies total gift amounts for the gift ideas.

Claim 226 (Previously Presented): A storage medium having processor-executable instructions for performing a method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, wherein each gift idea has a specified total gift amount;

storing the gift ideas and total gift amounts in a storage medium which is part of, or accessible to, the gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and total gift amounts and in response to requests supplied to the gift registry computer system, an on-line display of the gift ideas and the total gift amounts;

receiving at the gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for parts of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift,

wherein each giver is able to commit for part of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift even if the only gift amount specified by the gift idea for the selected gift is the total gift amount.

Claim 227 (Previously Presented): A computer programmed to perform a method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, wherein each gift idea has a specified total gift amount;

storing the gift ideas and total gift amounts in a storage medium which is part of, or accessible to, the gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and total gift amounts and in response to requests supplied to the gift registry computer system, an on-line display of the gift ideas and the total gift amounts;

receiving at the gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for parts of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift,

wherein each giver is able to commit for part of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift even if the only gift amount specified by the gift idea for the selected gift is the total gift amount.

Claim 228 (Previously Presented): A gift registry computer system configured to enable a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the computer system comprising:

- a communication circuit for connecting to a communications network;
- a processor; and

- a storage medium containing instructions executable by the processor to perform the steps of:

- receiving gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, at least one of the received gift ideas specifying a substitute gift;

- storing the gift ideas in a storage medium which is accessible to the processor;

- providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied over the communications network, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

- receiving commitments from the gift givers for parts of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

- combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

- automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the gift,

- wherein the commitment of each giver for part of the total gift amount is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of currency.

Claim 229 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 228, wherein the providing of an on-line display of gift ideas comprises:

- generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and

- supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

Claim 230 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 228, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

Claim 231 (Canceled).

Claim 232 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 228, further comprising:

providing the commitments from the gift givers to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

Claim 233 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer according to claim 228, wherein the gift recipient specifies total gift amounts for the gift ideas.

Claim 234 (Previously Presented): A gift registry computer system configured to enable a plurality of gift givers to each contribute part of a total gift amount specified for a gift for a gift recipient, the computer system comprising:

a communication circuit for connecting to a communications network;

a processor; and

a storage medium containing instructions executable by the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, wherein each gift idea has a specified total gift amount;

storing the gift ideas and total gift amounts in a storage medium which is accessible to the processor;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and total gift amounts and in response to requests supplied over the communications network, an on-line display of the gift ideas and the total gift amounts;

receiving commitments from the gift givers for parts of the total gift amount specified for a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments from the gift givers and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the total gift amount specified for the selected gift; and

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift,

wherein each giver is able to commit for part of the total gift amount specified for a selected gift even if the only gift amount specified by the gift idea for the selected gift is the total gift amount.

Claim 235 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, wherein the providing of an on-line display of gift ideas comprises:

generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and

supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

Claim 236 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

Claim 237 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, wherein

the receiving of gift ideas from a gift recipient comprises receiving at least one gift idea that specifies a substitute gift.

Claim 238 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, further comprising:

providing the commitments from the gift givers to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the total gift amount specified for the selected gift.

Claim 239 (Previously Presented): The gift registry computer system according to claim 234, wherein the gift recipient specifies total gift amounts for the gift ideas.

Claim 240 (New): A centralized gift registry computer system programmed to perform a method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at said centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, each gift idea specifying gift parameters including one or more of a recipient-specified purchase price, a recipient-specified vendor and a recipient-specified substitute gift;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and
attempting to satisfy the purchase request,
wherein the amount of the monetary contribution of each commitment toward the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price is directly specified as an amount of currency which is not constrained by the gift parameters specified by the gift recipient for the selected gift.

Claim 241 (New): The gift registry computer system according to claim 240, wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the purchase request for the selected gift cannot be satisfied.

Claim 242 (New): The gift registry computer system according to claim 240, wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the total of all commitments is less than the selected gift's purchase price.

Claim 243 (New): The gift registry computer system according to claim 240, wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the purchase request for the selected gift cannot be satisfied to provide delivery by a certain time.

Claim 244 (New): The gift registry computer system according to claim 240, wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the purchase request for the selected gift cannot be satisfied at the recipient-specified purchase price.

Claim 245 (New): A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, each gift idea specifying gift parameters including one or more of a purchase price, a vendor and a substitute gift;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect an uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the amount of the monetary contribution of each commitment toward the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price is directly specified as an amount of currency which is not constrained by the gift parameters specified by the gift recipient for the selected gift.

Claim 246 (New): The method according to claim 245, wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the purchase request for the selected gift cannot be satisfied.

Claim 247 (New): The method according to claim 245, wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the total of all commitments is less than the selected gift's purchase price.

Claim 248 (New): The method according to claim 245, wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the purchase request for the selected gift cannot be satisfied to provide delivery by a certain time.

Claim 249 (New): The method according to claim 245, wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the purchase request for the selected gift cannot be satisfied at the recipient-specified purchase price.

Claim 250 (New): A centralized gift registry computer system programmed to perform a method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at said centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, each gift idea specifying gift parameters including one or more of a recipient-specified purchase price, a recipient-specified vendor and a recipient-specified substitute gift;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the purchase request for the selected gift cannot be satisfied.

Claim 251 (New): A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient, each gift idea specifying gift parameters including one or more of a purchase price, a vendor and a substitute gift;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward a purchase price of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect an uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase price;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the recipient-specified substitute gift is substituted for the selected gift if the purchase request for the selected gift cannot be satisfied.